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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LAGOS 001742

SIPDIS

STATE PASS FAA FOR ACONLEY,  
TRANSPORTATION FOR FAA; DAKAR PLEASE PASS TO FAA REP ED  
JONES; ROME PLEASE PASS TO TSA REP JOHN HALINSKI

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: AIRPORT AND SEAPORT SECURITY ASSESSMENT

11. (SBU) Summary. Members of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), and the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) met with the Contingency and Security Solutions International (CSSI) team October 17-18 to discuss efforts to improve maritime port and aviation security, seaport and airport modernization, and areas in which U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) funding could be possible. FAAN and NCAA officials emphasized the need for more training, including the establishment of regional aviation security training centers, and requested assistance modernizing their operations and upgrading management capacity. End Summary.

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Background  
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12. (SBU) USTDA sent a Definitional Mission to Nigeria in November 2002 to review several port sector projects that were presented to USTDA by the NPA. Specifically, four projects were reviewed to tackle problems in the Nigerian port sector: the creation of an integrated computerization system to operate and manage the Nigerian ports system, improving efficiency in Lagos Ports Complex (Apapa Port, Apapa Container Port Terminal, Roro Port and Tin Can Island Container Port Terminal), expanding the Onne Free Port Zone, and developing a Deep-Sea port in Nigeria.

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Integrated Computerized System for Ports Requested  
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13. (SBU) The CSSI team met the CEO of NPA, Adebayo Sarunmi, at NPA headquarters on October 17 to discuss modernizing Nigeria's seaports. Adebayo said three port terminals were constructed through USG assistance and stated the development of a Deep-Sea port and the Niger Dock improvement project were underway. He requested USTDA assistance to build an integrated computer port management system to trace equipment and containers and to integrate the computers at the NPA offices with computers at the ports. He complained Nigeria should be the maritime hub for West Africa, but that customs delays, fiscal difficulties, and a host of other inefficiencies caused Nigeria to lose out to different ports. He believed the automated computer project would improve NPA efficiency. Sarunmi also welcomed USG assistance in creating a regional maritime security-training center, but mentioned that a British security-consulting firm currently offered port security courses that met NPA training needs.

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Airport Security And Establishment  
of West African Security Training Center  
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14. (SBU) The CSSI team met FAAN Aviation Security General Manager Adeshola Faworaja and Director of Airport Operations Desmond Ugwu on October 17 to discuss airport security. Faworaja asked for USG assistance in acquiring check baggage screening equipment including drug detection equipment. In addition, she requested help obtaining x-ray and explosive trace screening machines, an access control system, video surveillance equipment, and assistance in upgrading runway lighting and signage. Declaring background security checks on employees were not adequate, Faworaja welcomed CSSI's proposal regarding the establishment of an USTDA-sponsored regional aviation security-training center in Lagos.

15. (SBU) The Director of the Directorate of Aviation Safety and Security, Balarabe Usman, told us October 17 that recent firings and administrative changes within FAAN would not affect FAAN's focus on security. He said security would remain the most important priority for him. He said he told President Obasanjo when appointed Director, that "airports are a national monument, any attack on the airport is an attack on the nation, and that FAAN does not want to compromise security". Usman emphasized that while he supports privatization of airports, security regulations and operations would remain within his organization's domain.

16. (SBU) NCAA Director General Fidelis Onyeyiri met the CSSI team on October 18 to discuss the NPA record on airport security and requested assistance in creating an airport operations manual. He said Aviation Minister Borishade was interested in requesting DOT/FAA assistance developing NCAA regulations, particularly security and aerodrome regulations. Onyeyiri also said visitor security was a major problem and requested screening machines including magnetometers, metal detectors, trace detectors and x-ray machines to improve airport security.

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Comment  
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17. (SBU) The October 17-18 Lagos meetings highlighted the areas in which the NPA, FAAN, and NCAA could benefit from USG assistance. Nigerian seaports are notorious for long delays, congestion, equipment breakdown, and lack of proper maintenance procedures and schedules. Nigerian airports have had problems with runway safety, aquaplaning, on-ground communications, security, and flight delays. Upgrading marine port and aviation security is crucial if Nigeria is to reach its maritime and aviation potential. FAAN and NCAA welcome the idea of a regional aviation security training concept.

18. (SBU) The CSSI team had serious concerns about the ability of international or domestic terrorists to block access to all Nigeria's ports by sinking a single ship in the relatively narrow channel. The NPA expressed a strong desire for increased waterfront security. The NPA envisioned the need for a well-trained and supervised maritime patrol unit to provide waterside protection for the ports and also for ships anchored off-shore awaiting entrance to the ports. This could deter piracy, which the NPA has stated has become a problem. End Comment.

Members of the USG team included: CSSI CEO Clayton Scott, CSSI Security Consultant David Ryder, and Econoff/notetaker Ken Reiman.

This cable has been cleared by Contingency and Security Solutions International CEO Clayton S. Scott.  
BROWNE